FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 13, 1985

THE AMIGA BY COMMODORE: IN THE WORDS OF MANY WHO HAVE VIEWED IT ... "AWESOME"

TORONTO -- The Amiga represents a revolutionary force in the microcomputer industry and Commodore's ongoing commitment to excellence. By virtue of its capabilities and innovative design, the Amiga has advanced the computer industry to its next stage of development.

The Amiga is a versatile system which allows the user to inhabit both the creative audio-visual world and the text and numeric-oriented business world.

"As we enter the 'Knowledge Era', the Amiga marks a new generation in technological packaging that opens the doors for people to use computers in new creative and exciting ways. Computer advances are only important if they can be packaged in a manner that makes the technology invisible and the functions easily usable," said Robert Graham, Vice-President, Marketing, Commodore Business Machines Limited.

"And it's people the Amiga is targeted at. It is people that are creative, not businesses or homes. The Amiga is for people who want a computer to do simple things, creative and exciting things, as well as to perform heavier, more complex functions," said Graham.

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"Commodore believes in creating computers for people -- whether those people are in a business, home, educational or professional environment," he said.

The Amazing Proprietary Integrated Circuits

Based on the 16/32-bit Motorola 68000 microprocessor and bolstered by three proprietary microchips designed by Commodore-Amiga to facilitate sound and graphics functions, the Amiga provides a muscular multi-tasking operating system and an easy-to-operate user interface that features multiple windows, multiple screens, icons and menus -- a combination of features previously unavailable at any price. By using the Amiga support chips set to liberate the 68000 microprocessor from routine tasks, the Amiga is able to perform sophisticated graphics functions while leaving the 68000 free to run applications. This also allows Amiga's operating system, AmigaDOS, to perform several tasks simultaneously.

MS-DOS Compatibility

Through the use of an inexpensive software option entitled "PC Transformer", Amiga can also run the top 20 MS-DOS business and professional programs including Lotus 1-2-3^{TM}.

Memory

In its basic configuration, the Amiga offers 256K bytes of RAM and is user-expandable via an on-board plug-in cartridge to 512K bytes, giving it more than enough memory to run even the largest application programs. It is further expandable externally up to 8 megabytes through the use of a system expansion bus which allows developers to use Amiga applications which were once the exclusive domain of mini and mainframe computers.

Built-in Features

To harness the Amiga's computing power and to maintain a high degree of user friendliness, a two-button mouse is standard as well as a detached keyboard that includes numeric keypad, 10 function keys and separate cursor keys. The Amiga's built-in floppy disk drive offers 880K bytes of formatted storage.

External Peripherals

An external floppy disk port supports up to three additional drives including a mix of 3.5- and 5.25-inch drives. The Amiga has both an RS232 serial port and a reconfigurable parallel port which is set up to the Centronics printer standard and will support a variety of dot matrix, letter quality, colour, graphics, thermal, colour ink jet and laser printers. The basic Amiga comes with a system expansion port, with full access to the 68000 system bus, in addition to a pair of stereo audio jacks and two configurable controller ports for such things as mouse, light pen, track ball, etc.

Graphics Extraordinaire

In graphics, the Amiga soars above conventional features because of its proprietary custom VLSI graphics and sound chips. The Amiga has the largest standard colour palette available on a microcomputer to date: more than 4,000 colours. Commodore has engineered into the Amiga the following colour modes: 320x200 32 colours; 320x400 32 colours; 620x400 16 colours; and a "hold and modify" mode that allows 4,096 colours on screen simultaneously.

The Amiga has three video ports. Port one allows for analog RGB output. This port also supports an optional genlock unit for synchronizing the Amiga with an external video device such as a laser disk, video camera or video tape player. A second video port outputs standard NTSC signals for a TV via an RF modulator. Video port 3 is an NTSC composite video output.

With the help of a digitized "frame grabber device", the Amiga can capture an image with a video camera, display it on the computer, allowing the user to vary hue, saturation and luminance as well as brightness over the computer's range of 4,000 plus colours. Additionally, the user can record up to one second of imagery and replay the recreated images in "instant replay", slow motion, step action or high-speed modes.

Unrivalled Audio Features

Amiga is also the leader in professional quality audio capabilities, including a built-in music synthesizer. This capability includes four low-noise digital voices, each with independently programmable volume, level and sampling rates, which can be configured to provide stereo output. These sound features are also employed to provide text-to-speech voice synthesis, with unlimited vocabulary and user-defined parameters for male and female voices.

Suggested retail price for the Amiga is $1,999.99, including CPU,
mouse, 3½-inch disk drive (880K formatted storage), DOS, Basic,
Tutorial, 256K RAM standard and voice and music capabilities; expansion
cartridge to 512K -- $299.99; RGB high-resolution monitor -- $799.99;
external disk drive (3¼ in.) $499.99; external disk drive (5¼ in.) --
$599.99; "PC Transformer" Emulator for MS-DOS software -- $149.99.

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For further information, contact:

Robert Graham,
Vice-President, Marketing,
(416) 499-4292